[4th August 1955

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) A reply has since been sent to the management of Feroke Tile Works, Feroke, on 26th April 1955, to the effect that their request to declare this factory as seasonal under section 25-A (2) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, cannot be complied with.

" (*c*) No, Sir.

" (*d*) Does not arise."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Are Government aware that in spite of the reply that has been sent by the Government to the management declaring that Government cannot comply with the request of the management to treat the Tile Works as a seasonal one, the management did not pay the lay-off wages and also did not implement the agreement reached by the management and workers before the Collector of Malabar? The situation there is worsening and the workers are compelled to resort to direct action. Therefore will the Government see that without such a situation developing there, the rights of the workers to which they are legally entitled are granted without further delay?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" A report from the Commissioner has been called for and on receipt of the report, necessary action will be taken in the matter."

Improvements to the Government Hospital, Coimbatore.

* 1915 *Q.*—SRI R. KUPPUSWAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any proposals have been sent by the Advisory Committee of the Government Hospital, Coimbatore, to the Government regarding improvements to the Government hospital; and

(*b*) if so, what they are?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The Advisory Committee has made the following recommendations to the Director of Medical Services :—

(i) Construction of quarters for Nursing Orderlies.

(ii) Construction of an additional hundred bedded ward.

(iii) Raising the bed-strength of the hospital from 366 to 500.

(iv) Provision of a Steam Laundry.

(v) Provision of an additional consulting room in the O.P. Department.

(vi) Acquisition of the adjoining land for the future expansion of the hospital.

(vii) To approach the local Municipality for sanctioning a contribution of Rs. 25,000 for the construction of a Children's ward."

4th August 1955]

SRI R. KUPPUSWAMY :—" May I ask the Hon. Minister when it will come into force? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The incerase of bed-strength has already been effected. Provision of steam laundry will be considered in connexion with the next year's budget. Some other recommendations are under consideration or they are being proposed to be included in the Second Five-Year Plan."

Village officers serving as Branch Postmasters.

* 1916 *Q*.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any prohibition for village officers to hold the office of Branch Postmasters;

(*b*) how many village officers in Malabar district hold the office of Branch Postmasters; and

(*c*) whether any and if so, how many village officers were refused permission to hold such office in 1953 and 1954 in Malabar?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" (*a*) No, Sir.

" (*b*) Four.

" (*c*) One in 1953 and one in 1954."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Arising out of the answer to clause (*c*), may I know, Sir, why these two were refused permission to hold office as Branch Postmasters? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" Because it was thought it would interfere with their normal work as village officers."

Electricity for agricultural purposes.

* 1917 *Q*.—SRI D. DASARATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal to extend the supply of electricity for agricultural purposes to Wandiwash taluk?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Schemes for extension of supply to Pernamallur and Ariyapady villages in Wandiwash taluk and to street lights in Wandiwash Panchayat area have been sanctioned and these are programmed to be taken up for execution during 1955–56. In addition, the 33 K.V. line from Kancheepuram to Wandiwash will be taken up for execution during 1955–56 and when completed, it will be possible to further extend supply for agricultural purposes in the taluk."